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Remarks

Reconsideration of pending claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

In the Office action dated June 30, 2006, the Examiner rejected all pending claims under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0135576 (Giles et al.). For the reasons discussed below, applicants believe that the pending claims - particularly as now amended - are not anticipated by this reference and are in condition for allowance.

In the rejection, the Examiner cited Giles et al. as disclosing "an online service ordering process for implementing the provisioning of telecommunication services between a customer and a telecommunication service provider". While that may be true in general, Giles et al. does not disclose or suggest any method that utilizes "interaction" via web pages directly between a customer and a service provider. Indeed, Giles et al. is directed to a very specific type of interaction between telecommunication "resellers" and telecommunication "wholesalers" - not including, *per se*, interactions with the end-user customer himself. While paragraph [0021] of Giles et al. mentions the "end user customer", paragraph [0022] goes on to describe the ordering process as utilizing "customer service agents" to gather the information from the customer. The reseller's customer service agents then interact with "wholesalers" through an automated system of data messages. See, for example, the portion of paragraph [0022] which states: "[m]essage server 74 communicates with a router 76 which preferably permits only messages conforming to the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) between reseller 50 and wholesaler 22". Therefore, once the customers provide initial information to the reseller agents, the customers "interaction" is complete. Thereafter, the ordering process occurs between the reseller agents and the wholesaler.

Applicants assert that there is no method disclosed or suggested in Giles et al. that includes the critical step of "interacting with the verified customer through the presentation of subsequent customer-controlled web pages, permitting customer-provided data entry, to

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complete the requested service order", as defined by amended claim 1. Indeed, the customer is not permitted in Giles et al. to perform any data entry himself. This is precisely the intent of the present invention - to allow the customer to perform his own provisioning/modification of telecommunication services.

Based on these differences, applicants assert that Giles et al. cannot be found to anticipate the subject matter of the present invention as defined by amended independent claim 1, or claims 2-11 which depend therefrom. Applicants thus respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this rejection and find all claims 1-11 to now be in condition for allowance. If for some reason or other the Examiner does not agree that the case is ready to issue and that an interview or telephone conversation would further the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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